Letters to the editor
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Smugly emulating Neville Chamberlain while rewriting his own history and that of the Middle East, past and present, in his January 25 column Roy Meachum engages in United States-bashing and still another defense of the long-time Butcher of Baghdad.

"In the best light, stripped of his Hitler label," he writes, "Saddam Hussein presents no qualities for admiration by Americans. As I noticed at the time, the Iraqi dictator rose to full power on the blood of his closest political allies."

He may have noticed it but he certainly did not in his columns. Not even when on a single day Saddam HUSSEIN gassed 5,000 of his own people to death did Mr. Meachum take time from his Israel-bashing to even mention it!

Continuing, " Each succeeding year has been slathered with more blood. I paid attention." Not in his columns! Not in his many one-sided columns of Israel-hating and occasional anti-Semitism.

Slashing at the President, whose supporter I am not,"the man in the White House could have been certified a genuine wimp by negotiating a peace." This falsehood is part and parcel of his pretense that this is a United States war and thus the President alone could negotiate its end. Only the UN, which voted overwhelmingly for it, can negotiate a peace treaty. But with whom could anyone negotiate anything to bring peace when the entire world though the UN stipulated the precondition that Iraq leave Kuwait (the invasion of which he has yet to mention, leave along condemn) and Saddam Hussein rejected that condition?

On saying at the same point that he "deeply believed war would be avoided" Mr. Meachum displays his own ignorance of the area of his claimed expertise, the Middle East, and his lack of understanding of Saddam Hessein and his policies and ambitions.

Instead of focusing it on the villain, he writes that "with my mind set on the Middle East (which resulted in this series of columns giving aid and comfort to the enemy) I missed the deadly determination" of the President to go to war. Hussein was not responsible for the war, mind you, we were, and once again he persists it is us alone, not the UN-the world save for Hussein and a couple of his flunkies, including the PLO and Jordan.

He even makes us, all of us, through the action of our government, out to be racists in seeking to overturn Hussein's brutal and extraordinarily bloody invasion and adoption of Kuwait:

"I will not stop here to explicate the bases which permit 'white' human beings to hold cheap the lives and welfare of their fellow creatures with darker skins." Again the false pretense essential to his U.S.-bashing, that the war is ours alone, plus an incredible stupidity to state still another falsehood, his contrived racism. Are Iraqis less white than

Egyptians, Saudis and Syrians and the rest of the Arabs a majority of whose states voted for the war in which many participate?

He comes out of his closet with his Chamberlain umbrella fully open in saying that "all of Baghdad is not ~~with~~ worth a single young American life." That is not the issue or the reality. Neither the U.S. nor the UN has or has expressed any intent to take so much as a square inch of Iraq. It is Iraq that took all of Kuwait, and the specific and limited purpose of the UN's war is to get Iraq to leave Kuwait that Iraq ~~took~~ shed so much Kuwaiti blood in capturing and adopting.

~~The choise~~ This reflects ~~in~~ an exactly parallel ~~situation is the choice~~ of Chamberlain's ~~made in~~ giving Hitler other peoples' countries for "peace." The consequences of letting Saddam Hussein duplicate Hitler's career will be the consequences of that career - ~~of the worlds~~ history's worst horrors.

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